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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HABTE, KAHSAY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1624

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2003

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/990,187

Applicant(s)

DUGAR ET AL.

Examiner

Kahsay Habte, Ph. D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11, 12 and 15-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 40 and 41 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11, 12, 15-39 and 42-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-13, 15-39 and 42-44 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's amendment filed 8/4/03 in response to the previous Office Action (Paper No. 9) is acknowledged. Rejections of claims 1-13, 15-39 and 42-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph (Paper No. 9, paragraphs 7a-7e) and first paragraph (items 4 and 6) have been obviated.

3. It is recommended that applicants delete claims 40-41 that are drawn to non-elected inventions in response to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for many of the diseases recited, does not reasonably provide enablement for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and restenosis. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with

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these claims. There has been recited in claim 44 a method of treating Alzheimer's disease, but the specification is not enabled for such a scope.

A number of factors are relevant to whether undue experimentation would be required to practice the claimed invention, including "(1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount of direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims." In re Wands, 858 F.2d at 737, 8 USPQ2d at 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

(1). Breadth of Claims:

Scope of Compounds - The scope of the compounds is also broad. It is apparent that hundreds of millions of combinations of compounds can be created from the definitions, owing especially to broad scope of Ar, L², L¹, R³, R⁴, Z² and Z³.

(2). Direction of Guidance: The amount of direction or guidance is minimal. There is no dosage.

(3). State of Prior Art: There is no evidence of record that compounds structurally similar to these pyridine derivative compounds are in use for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

(4). Working Examples: There is no any working example that indicates the treatment of Alzheimer's disease that is mediated by p38-alpha kinase. There is no data for any actual treatment of Alzheimer's disease or of any animal model for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

(5). Nature of the Invention and Predictability: It is well established that "the scope of enablement varies inversely with the degree of unpredictability of the factors involved," and physiological activity is generally considered to be an unpredictable factor. See *In re Fisher*, 427 F.2d 833, 839, 166 USPQ 18, 24 (CCPA 1970).

(6). The Relative Skill of Those in the Art: Applicants claim a method of treatment for AD, this is a very hard to treat disease. The central characteristic of Alzheimer's disease is the deficiency in the level of the neurotransmitter Acetylcholine that plays an important role in memory. Alzheimer's Disease is an extraordinarily difficult disease to treat, and has been the subject of a vast amount of research. Despite an enormous number of different approaches, the skill level in the art is so low relative to the difficulty of task that the only success has come from treatment by compounds which are Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors (Aricept®, Cognex®, Exelon®, and Reminyl®) a property these compounds are not disclosed to have.

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(7). The Quantity of Experimentation Necessary: Immense, especially in view of point 6, since the inhibition of p38-alpha for the treatment of AD has never been accomplished or even researched. Thus, no guidance from the success of others is available from this experimentation.

Restenosis, or recurrent stenosis, is an extremely general term. Stenosis is the narrowing of any canal, orifice, valve, duct, artery, vein, tube (such as trachea), opening, etc. in the body. These can arise from obstructive lesions, deposits of granulations, organ hypertrophy, etc. There is no such thing as being able to treat such widely diverse problems which arise from different sources.

MPEP 2164.01(a) states, "A conclusion of lack of enablement means that, based on the evidence regarding each of the above factors, the specification, at the time the application was filed, would not have taught one skilled in the art how to make and/or use the full scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation. *In re Wright*, 999 F.2d 1557,1562, 27 USPQ2d 1510, 1513 (Fed. Cir. 1993)." That conclusion is clearly justified here.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-9, 11-12, 15-39 and 42-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention:

a. In claim 1, the phrase "fused ring" is indefinite. What is the nature of the ring? Is it carbocyclic or heterocyclic? If heterocyclic, what is the type of heteroatoms?

b. In claim 44, the phrase "other arthritic conditions" is indefinite. What are covered and what are not?

c. In claim 38, the phrases "List-2A" "List- 2B", etc. are not clear. Said phrase are redundant, since the chemical structure are drawn. Applicants have to delete said phrases from the claim.

d. In claim 44, the abbreviation "IBD" is not clear. What is it? Applicants have to recite the abbreviation in the claims.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kahsay Habte, Ph. D. whose telephone number is (703) 308-4717. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9.00AM- 5:30PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached on 703-308-4716. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.



Kahsay Habte, Ph. D.
Examiner
Art Unit 1624



Mukund J. Shah
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1624

KH
August 19, 2003